

signed by the State natural resource agency directors of all 28 States by the end of 1990. In addition, the agreement has been signed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the National Biological Service, the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma and the Chippewa-Cree Tribe in Montana. Since its formation, one of MICRA's most important accomplishments has been to bring resource managers together in the realization that all had a strong interest in preserving and protecting fish and wildlife.

The Agreement originated from a shared concern for the welfare of the ancient paddlefish, a species which was at one time abundant in the basin, providing robust commercial and recreational fishery opportunities. The basin States recognized the need to protect the species on a multi-State basis and joined forces to develop a common approach and share resources in protecting the paddlefish and other important species.

MICRA has since evolved to address losses in all kinds of aquatic species. Its mission has become to "improve the conservation, development, management and utilization of interjurisdictional fishery resources in the Mississippi River Basin through improved coordination and communication among the responsible management entities."

MICRA is administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service, which provides a full time MICRA Coordinator/Executive Secretary. The Association, composed of one representative from each member State and entity, publishes a bimonthly newsletter, called River Crossings, as its primary means of information exchange.

Included among MICRA's goals are: improving basin-wide networking and coordinating mechanisms; developing public information and education programs; identifying and prioritizing issues of concern for coordinated research; and developing compatible regulations and policies for the allocation of fishery resources.

MICRA members are aware that industry and agriculture are, like the fish and wildlife inhabiting the basin, dependent upon large rivers for transportation, irrigation, power generation and other water-dependent operations. The goal, therefore, is not to eliminate waterway development projects and uses, but to determine how those uses can exist compatibly with environmentally sound fishery resource management on a region-wide basis.

ADDRESSING FUNDING AND CONCERNS OF THE STATES

The bill I offer today provides Federal recognition for MICRA and establishes a pilot test for the implementation of that agreement. It will not impose any mandates upon the States. All of those involved in the creation of this legislation have taken great care to address concerns expressed by the States over the degree to which State prerogatives will be maintained. All the States involved in this program have become so voluntarily. Congressional acknowledgment of the Agreement would provide further opportunity to address basin-wide fishery management issues by ensuring access to Federal funding and encouraging greater support from member agencies.

Under the MICRA pilot test established by this bill, MICRA signatories would, among other matters, identify and describe the river ecosystems of the drainage basin, identify the factors most adversely affecting the basin and its resources, allow for resource-sharing

among the various MICRA signatories, develop plans for restoration of fishery resources, and evaluate the possibility of extending such a program to other river basins in the United States. All of these goals will be pursued under the existing funding structure under which MICRA currently operates. The bill does not authorize any appropriations, but allows the Secretary of the Interior to use U.S. Fish and Wildlife funds to carry out the objectives.

Finally, as proposed in this bill, MICRA will not duplicate any existing organizational network. Rather, coordinated resources will be used to enhance existing programs and institutions. MICRA will not only serve as a tool for protecting fisheries throughout the Mississippi River Drainage Basin, but may serve as a model for protecting fishery resources throughout the Nation as well.

SUPPORT FOR THE BILL

This bill is the result of over 3 years of consultations between myself, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State fish and wildlife agencies and national and local chapters of the major river resource management organizations. I have attached copies of endorsement letters from many of these groups, and ask that they be included in the RECORD.

AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH, FEBRUARY 1996

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 1996

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I call to the attention of this Congress and the Nation, an effort that is taking place in my district and in places throughout the Nation. The National Daughters of the American Revolution dedicated this month, February, to be American history month. As the father of four young Americans who are 6, 14, 15, and 20 years of age, I value their education and appreciation regarding our family heritage as members of a larger family of Americans.

My ancestors were of Irish and Italian descent and were immigrants who came to the United States for a new start, a bright future, and the successes that this Nation has offered persons from throughout the world. They greatly valued the elements that make our Nation the greatest in the world. Liberty, justice, and opportunity. They assimilated into the cultural mix of the Pittsburgh suburban way of life, worked hard, raised families, and found that their differences with their neighbors gave flavor to our American community. I have lived in that community all my life and have found a strength and truly American spirit, which is found in small and large places nationwide.

I salute the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution for promoting awareness of American history and our national heritage this month. Generations of Americans from all walks of life and from all cultures have given their labor, their prayers, their very lives so that we might enjoy the fruits of democracy. I encourage my colleagues and all Americans to promote an interest by our youth in history this month and what this Nation means to all Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 1996

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, February 1, I missed rollcall No. 30. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR NANCY WILSON

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 1996

Mr. MFUME. Speaker, I am both pleased and proud to be here today to honor one of the finest entertainers and the pride of Chillicothe, OH—Nancy Wilson.

Ms. Wilson's career in the performing arts has lasted some 40 plus years. Since the age of 4 years, Nancy Wilson knew she wanted to become a singer. She sang in the church choir and listened avidly to and was influenced by a litany of musical talent, among them Billy Eckstine, Louis Jordan, Ruth Brown, LaVern Baker, Nat King Cole, and big band vocalists such as Jimmy Rushing and Little Jimmy Scott.

As an active vocalist during her teenage years, Nancy Wilson sang in nightclubs and made local television appearances. And in 1956–58 she toured the Midwest and Canada with Rusty Bryant's band.

In 1959, her biggest career break came when she performed with jazz great Cannonball Adderley. She soon signed a contract with Capitol Records and in 1962 recorded an album with Adderley.

Nancy Wilson received rave reviews from several prominent jazz musicians and thereafter was booked for numerous appearances in concert halls, nightclubs, and jazz clubs throughout the United States and Europe. Her career has continued to blossom ever since.

Ms. Wilson is a "grounded in reality" kind of person. She is a woman that gives her time and talent to various charities and community projects.

The Wilson family created the Nancy Wilson Foundation to permit inner-city children to see the country and experience alternate lifestyles. She has also worked with the Martin Luther King Center for Social Change, the National Urban Coalition, and the Warwick Foundation.

Ms. Wilson is a member of the N.A.A.C.P.; the S.C.L.C.; Operation PUSH, for which she is chairperson; the President's Council for Minority Business Enterprises; the Committee for the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts; and the United Negro College Fund.

Among her many awards, Nancy Wilson earned the Johnson and Johnson Red Ruby Award, after working with the company's prenatal care promotion. Her other achievements are an Emmy in 1975 for "The Nancy Wilson Show"; the N.A.A.C.P. Image Award—1986; Grammy Award for "How Glad I Am"—1964; Entertainer of the Year Award presented by Atlantic City Magazine; the Global Entertainer of the Year Award presented by the World Conference of Mayors—1986; the Paul Robeson Humanitarian Award; first place in the